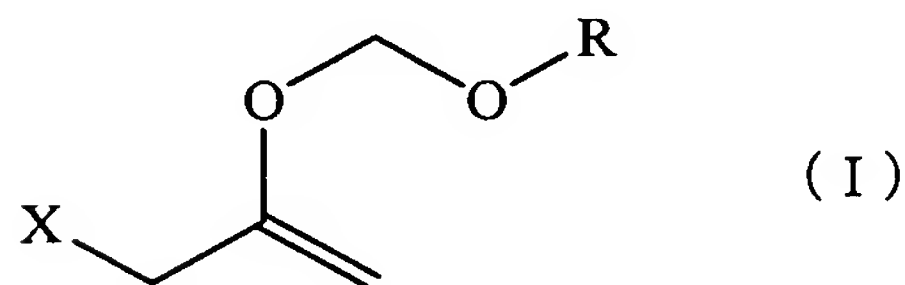


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

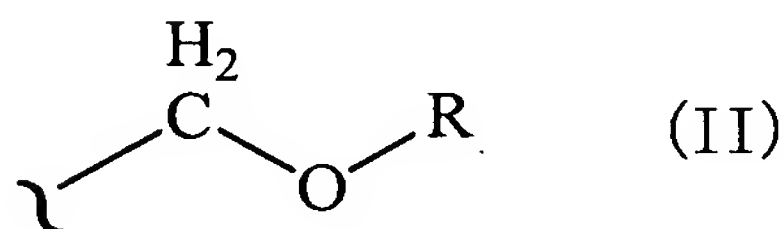
Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of protecting a hydroxyl group, which comprises reacting a hydroxyl group-containing compound with a compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein R is a phenyl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or a benzyl group optionally having substituent(s), and X is a halogen atom,

in the presence of an acid catalyst to substitute the hydrogen atom of the hydroxyl group of the hydroxyl group-containing compound with a protecting group represented by the formula (II):



wherein R is as defined above.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R is a phenyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s).

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein R is an alkyl group.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate or p-toluenesulfonic acid.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the acid catalyst is pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate.

6. – 15. (Cancelled)